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SOUTH KOREA: **Outcome Still Uncertain on Election Eve**

With no clear winner in sight and neither side willing to admit the possibility of defeat, both the South Korean ruling party and the opposition are warning there may be demonstrations and unrest after the presidential election tomorrow. [redacted] (b)(3)

The major candidates held rallies this weekend to demonstrate popular support and sway the large undecided bloc—still as much as 20 percent of the electorate. On Saturday, according to the US Embassy, the ruling party turned out a huge, mostly paid, crowd to hear Roh Tae Woo propose a second package of political reforms. The Embassy reports the move probably has won Roh votes from diffident conservatives and trimmed the lead many political observers had given to Kim Young Sam last week. [redacted] (b)(3)

Both Kim Young Sam and Kim Dae Jung remain convinced they can win the election, and neither is responding to pressure for a last-minute compromise on a single candidate. If Roh wins, the Embassy reports, the Kims are counting on widespread protests after the election to unseat him and offer them a second chance at power. During a conversation with US officials last week, Kim Dae Jung's supporters continued to lay the groundwork to cry fraud, raising the issue of government manipulation of absentee ballots and predicting widespread cheating tomorrow. [redacted] (b)(3)

Reports of government manipulation of the military vote have surfaced to blemish the final days of Roh's campaign. Dissident groups claim a soldier was beaten to death for refusing to vote for Roh; the government says the man was fatally injured during a scuffle with a superior. [redacted] (b)(1) that absentee voting was halted at South Korean Air Force headquarters (b)(3) when the military's security service discovered Roh was trailing in the tally. [redacted] (b)(3)

Seoul has placed the military and police on highest alert status to prevent violence at the polls and in the election aftermath. [redacted] (b)(3)

Comment: Unrest is virtually certain if Roh wins; radicals will mount street demonstrations, and the opposition is prepared to cry foul. Whether such protests will build into the kind of demonstrations that swept South Korea in June will depend on the general public's view of a Roh victory. [redacted] (b)(3)

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